

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

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U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF MASS.

*Redacted Copy*  
*11/7/05*

PETER TINKHAM

V.

DOREEN KELLY

CIVIL ACTION

NO: 05-10470 MLW

PLAINTIFFS' MOTION IN OPPOSITION TO DSS DEFENDANTS' MOTION TO DISMISS

Plaintiffs Peter Tinkham, Juliet Alexander and Samantha Tinkham, pro se, hereby move to oppose MDSS Defendants' Motion to Dismiss brought under Rule 12(b). As grounds therefore, Plaintiffs state:

1. Defendants have recast Plaintiffs' Complaint in a new and alien form, sanding here and embellishing there, to justify their Rule 12 objections to it. In fact, a cursory reading of their attached memorandum reveals that Defendants' grasp of the nature of their own conduct has undergone a diligent pruning job.
2. Plaintiffs' Complaint alleges that DSS Defendants ratified and promoted a RICO conspiracy, the predicate and overt acts of which injured Plaintiffs to the tune of \$75,000.00 plus, humiliated and defamed them, caused intentional emotional distress and violated Constitutional rights so basic that an intelligent child of 12 would have recognized them.
3. As part of their litigation strategy, Defendants have exploited their fractional knowledge of Fed.R.Civ.P. 12 to the full, bringing an invalid motion under Rule 12(b) and affirmatively ignoring Rule 12(a). Defendants' Rule 12(b) motion may extend the time to responsibly plead, but it does not extend the time to file a Rule 12(b) motion. It certainly does not confer upon Defendants, who have been objectively in default for over 90 days, standing to file motions

to dismiss whenever they get around to it.

4. This constitutes, Plaintiffs would respectfully contend, an insupportable and contumacious disregard of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. In consequence, Plaintiffs have been obliged to abandon their expectation of a speedy, just and inexpensive resolution of their claims.

5. Notwithstanding their shaky legal position, Defendants have labored to bring forth 5 objections to Plaintiffs' Complaint, the ground of their acceptance by the Court being necessarily the authority upon which they are proposed, viz.:

1st Objection; Plaintiffs lack standing to bring suit because they have suffered no significant injury thus denying the Court subject matter jurisdiction under Article III of the U.S. Constitution.

1st Objection Countered: Whereas Defendants' 'no injury-in-fact' defense, like a stick with only one end, has absolutely no foundation in reality or in Plaintiffs' Complaint and whereas the Court must exercise its subject matter jurisdiction in all but the most frivolous cases, the Court has jurisdiction to hear and decide this case and Defendants' demonstrably false objection cannot be admitted.

2nd Objection: Plaintiffs lack standing on the same ground to request declaratory relief from MGL C.19 51/A and from the policies and procedures of the Massachusetts Department of Social Services.

2nd Objection Countered: Whereas one need not be committed a priori to the idea that a state has no business interfering in family life to recognize that MDSS as presently constituted is a menace to society and whereas the Court has a duty to order sweeping changes to a state's statutory scheme to protect the public's fundamental rights, the Court has mandatory subject matter jurisdiction to hear and decide this aspect of the case and Defendants' demonstrably false objection cannot be admitted.

3rd Objection: The "domestic relations exception" to federal jurisdiction bars Plaintiffs' Complaint.

3rd Objection Countered: Whereas the only "domestic relations" aspect to this case involves DSS Defendants' brazen and unjustified entry into Plaintiffs home without warrant and without Plaintiffs' consent and the base, arrogant disruption of the domestic tranquility of that home with their obnoxious interrogation of Plaintiffs therein and whereas in matters involving the claim of constitutional violations, the principle of "comity" has no place, there is no jurisdictional bar to the Court's ability to hear and decide this case and Defendants' demonstrably false objection cannot be admitted.

4th Objection: Plaintiffs have refused to take any steps to exhaust their administrative remedies and the Court must abstain from hearing this case.

4th Objection Countered: Whereas DSS Defendants' repeated and flagrant invasions of Plaintiffs' Constitutional rights stabilizes their intellectual conviction that in the DSS lexicon a 'Fair Hearing' is the closest thing to an oxymoron since Due Process and whereas DSS Defendants' current scramble to erect the edifice of a pending state proceeding to thwart the Court's jurisdiction ex post facto is neither credible nor edifying, no one discerning a faction is obliged to appear before it for judgement and Defendants' demonstrably specious objection cannot be admitted.

5th Objection: Plaintiffs have failed to plead mail and wire fraud against DSS Defendants with particularity, violated Rule 9(b), and failed to state a claim upon which relief may be granted.

5th Objection Countered: Whereas a RICO conspiracy requires neither predicate nor overt acts to either allege or prove it and whereas Courts can no longer dismiss a case out of hand for failing to allege with particularity, the RICO statute itself relieving Plaintiffs of all that can be termed 'judicially' imposed

prudential standing requirements, and whereas a Complaint will survive dismissal unless it appears beyond a doubt that Plaintiffs can prove no set of facts to support their claims, Plaintiffs have certainly alleged sufficient facts, even though not required for RICO conspiracy, to state a claim for relief under 18 U.S.C. §1962(d), and Defendants' demonstrably false objection cannot be admitted.

6. It is clear that Defendants' Motion to Dismiss and its accompanying memorandum are unfounded as to facts, opposed to the strict requirements of truth, incompatible with a careful analysis of the truly relevant case law, and excluded by a plain reading of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure which have the full force and effect of federal statutes and upon which both Plaintiffs and Defendants may confidently rely.

7. DSS Defendants, having failed to show good cause for their default, have filed a Motion to Dismiss that is insufficient as a matter of law, their Rule 12(b) defenses therein being neither timely nor meritorious. Therefore, Plaintiffs request that their Motion be denied and, because Defendants have not met their duty of diligence or candor, it should be denied with prejudice.

8. The grounds favoring denial are more fully set forth below:

Part One: Concerning Defendants' contention that Plaintiffs have suffered no injury in fact.

9. Defendants object to the formal sufficiency of the Rule 8 (2)(1) allegations in the Complaint and are, therefore, making a facial, not factual, challenge under Rule 12(b)(1) to Plaintiffs' Complaint. This facial attack, which does not suggest that the Court lacks jurisdiction over the subject matter of the Complaint itself, merely requires that the Court look at the Complaint to see if Plaintiffs have sufficiently



alleged a basis for standing. If a Motion asserts facts that as alleged do not provide for federal jurisdiction, Plaintiffs' allegations are presumed to be true for purposes of this Motion.<sup>1</sup>

10. Notwithstanding Defendants' vexatious practice to misstate and to mischaracterize Plaintiffs' allegations of injury, and as to the standing requirement itself of an injury in fact, fairly traceable to DSS Defendants' conduct and susceptible of redress, the Court need not consider the weight or significance of the alleged injuries but only whether they exist.<sup>2</sup>

11. DSS Defendants' uniquely constructed challenge to jurisdiction, however, demands the identification and assessment of Plaintiffs' injuries, which are clearly factual questions that require resolution on the merits and, therefore, not suited at all to resolution by a Motion to Dismiss.<sup>3</sup>

12. Despite this error, or perhaps on account of it, Defendants press their claim that Plaintiffs have suffered no "cognizable" injury because "They were not (1) reported to the District Attorney's office; (2) accused of a crime (just medical neglect or educational neglect depending upon which paragraph is being read in their memorandum); (3) branded as perpetrators; (4) or prosecuted."

13. The injury in fact, however, required by Article III of the Constitution for purposes of a party's standing to sue, has, in this case, absolutely nothing to do with whether Plaintiffs were "prosecuted" by a District Attorney or even whether they were accused of committing a "crime".

Prescinding from the fact that evidence will be produced at trial to show that the Commonwealth does indeed prosecute cases of "medical neglect" on the say-so of the Department of Social Services, the injuries in fact which Plaintiffs clearly allege in their Complaint exist because the U. S. Constitution along with 28 U.S.C. §1331 & §1343, and 18 U.S.C. §1961 et seq., created legal rights, the invasion of which creates standing.<sup>4</sup>

14. DSS Defendants' defense of De Minimis Non Curat Lex is confuted by their repeated and flagrant invasions of Plaintiffs' Constitutional rights under color of law. These violations, which are, therefore, per se injuries in fact, confer standing to sue under the Constitution, 28 U.S.C. §§1331, 1343, and 18 U.S.C. §1961 respectively and are comprehensively alleged in the body and the appendices of the Complaint.<sup>5</sup>

15. These per se injuries in fact, fairly traceable to Defendants' conduct and certainly susceptible of redress, are also, in part, the overt acts committed in furtherance of the alleged RICO conspiracy, ratified and promoted by all DSS Defendants while they were acting under color of law. Plaintiffs have, therefore, been injured by reason of the conspiracy itself and thus have standing to sue DSS Defendants under RICO.<sup>6</sup>

15a. Clearly the RICO statute affords Plaintiffs the express right to sue, extends Plaintiffs' standing to the limit permitted by the Constitution and relieves Plaintiffs of all judicially created prudential standing requirements. Therefore, DSS Defendants' predicate acts, viz., Conspiracy, Obstruction of Justice, Extortion, Mail and Wire Fraud are also per se injuries in fact, confer standing to sue, and are comprehensively alleged in the body and appendices of the Complaint.

16. Although it is true when standing becomes an issue, general factual allegations of injury to show standing<sup>7</sup> and threatened rather than actual injury may satisfy Article III requirements,<sup>8</sup> Plaintiffs comprehensively allege, in addition to the, as it were, technical injuries created by statute, the distinct and concrete harm that flowed from DSS Defendants' violations of the Bill of Rights, 42 U.S.C. §§ 1983, 5&6, and 18 U.S.C. §1962(d), when they ratified, adopted and promoted School Defendants' conspiracy to violate 18 U.S.C. §§1962(a), (b)&(c)., viz.:

A) Loss of property with a value of over \$75,000.00, compensable under RICO.

B) Humiliation, embarrassment, extreme emotional distress along with impairment of reputation and out of pocket expenses

compensable under 42 U.S.C. §§ 1983, 5&6.

17. If the Court accepts the Doctrine of Bell V. Hood which proscribes dismissal for lack of subject matter jurisdiction unless Plaintiffs' claims are wholly insubstantial and frivolous and asserted only for the purpose of obtaining jurisdiction,<sup>9</sup> and if the Court must accept as true, for purposes of ruling on a Motion to Dismiss for lack of standing, all material allegations in Plaintiffs' Complaint and must construe the Complaint in favor of Plaintiffs,<sup>10</sup> then it will meet with no obstacle to the denial of this part of Defendants' Motion.

Part Two: Concerning Defendants' contention that Plaintiffs have no standing to seek declaratory relief.

18. Since the injury alleged for purposes of declarative relief was occasioned by DSS Defendants acting under the color of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 19, §§ 51(a)&(b) and governed by the policies and procedures engineered by DSS personnel to carry out the unconstitutional mandate of this law; and, since the injuries in fact alleged for purposes of declaratory relief are the same as addressed in Part One of this memorandum, Plaintiffs have standing to sue for declaratory relief based on the justifications put forth there.

19. As to Defendants' contention that these injuries are not susceptible of relief or redress, Plaintiffs respectfully point out that alleging a probable benefit from winning suit is sufficient. As far as the grant of declaratory relief concerning the unconstitutionality of both the law and the policies and procedures of MDSS can be anticipated, Plaintiffs presume that if relief were granted by the Court, it would effectively abate the challenged conduct of DSS Defendants and prevent its recurrence. That would do nicely.

Part Three: Concerning Defendants' contention that the Domestic Relations Exception bars federal jurisdiction over Plaintiffs' case.

20. The claims against DSS Defendants have nothing whatever to do with "domestic relations" as enumerated in Defendants' memorandum. In fact, it would be difficult to conceive of a case less concerned with the subject of domestic relations or more concerned with the subject of the obvious and flagrant abridgement of Constitutionally guaranteed freedoms by state workers acting under color of state law.

The Court should sift through the claims made in Plaintiffs' Complaint to determine the true character of the dispute to be adjudicated,<sup>11</sup> because the less a case is a "core" domestic relations case, the less discretion it has to refuse to exercise its jurisdiction.<sup>12</sup>

21. If the Court does that in this case, it will be perfectly obvious that the domestic relations exception does not apply to Plaintiffs' Complaint which, as illustrated in this Motion, does not even possess an overtone or hint of same.<sup>12(a)</sup>

22. It will also be clear to the Court that this domestic relations exception is a specious attempt by DSS Defendants to evade the consequences of their conduct. This authorizes certain questions to be put, for instance: What would be the result if Defendants' conduct were affirmed?

23. DSS policy is a prime illustration of those bureaucratic experiments that hop from the drawing board onto the backs of unsuspecting citizens without any intervening period of public trial except as its victims endure it.

24. A closer examination of DSS policy and procedure reveals a belief system that is in several respects incompatible with the U.S. Constitution. This incompatibility exists on two



levels. The first is incompatibility of content. The second is incompatibility of method.

One indication of the former is the DSS infatuation with "pop" psychology. One need only peruse their so-called profiles of perpetrators index whereby a person's habits, thoughts, expressions and the state of his housekeeping (does he keep his shoes on the attic stairs?) are divided into three categories as if scientific principles were actually involved. These 'charts' are only a partial indicator of the depth of stupidity that is expressed in DSS policy and procedure, independent of any objective norms.

25. One indication of the latter is the fact that DSS workers, like medicos in combat, are allowed by law to walk around and into peoples' houses and interrogate them unmolested on the assumption that they are just out there to take care of the wounded. Plaintiffs have felt the repercussions of the unfettered 'social worker' who has, besides her incompetent take on humanity generally, several other bees buzzing about in her visionary bonnet. A week of DSS 'garden variety' interference with peoples' fundamental rights is enough to make a person renounce his pacificism.

26. Plaintiffs would suggest that the answer to the question posed in paragraph 22 of their motion is nothing less than the perversion of our constitutional system in its entirety. The bread that has been cast upon the waters of the several states in the form of "social" services has come back moldy. Ample reason for the Court to deny this part of Defendants' Motion.

Part Four: Concerning Defendants' contention that Plaintiffs have not exhausted their administrative remedies.

27. DSS Defendants are on equally shaky ground with this objection. Their recent so-called "Fair Hearing" offer, scheduled <sup>1365</sup>~~1565~~ days after Plaintiffs requested it, is a deliberate fraud upon the Court, justified by untrue statements made by opposing Counsel under oath.

28. Notwithstanding this regrettable development (doubtless counsel relied upon the willful falsehoods of his clients), Plaintiffs are manifestly NOT required to exhaust any state or administrative remedy in this matter. Although Plaintiffs' Complaint alleges and describes in detail how they took every one of the two steps available to them -and as soon as they were available- to invoke the remedies offered by DSS (Please see attached affidavits of Plaintiff Alexander and Plaintiff Tinkham), it is not necessary to allege the inadequacy of any state or administrative remedy because exhaustion of same is not a condition precedent to maintaining a §1983 action.<sup>13</sup> It is not required for claims brought under §1985, either.<sup>14</sup> There is no doctrine of exhaustion of state or administrative remedies applicable to civil rights actions in Federal Courts where jurisdiction is founded, as in this case, upon 28 U.S.C. §1343, including actions under 42 U.S.C. §1983 and §1985.<sup>15</sup>

29. The well settled case law on this point is unambiguous. Exhaustion of state judicial or administrative remedies is NOT required because of the paramount role Congress has assigned to the Federal Courts to protect constitutional rights.<sup>16</sup>

30. As to Plaintiffs' claims of denial of Due Process, a District Court may only grant a Motion to Dismiss for lack of subject matter jurisdiction based on Plaintiffs' failure to exhaust administrative remedies ONLY if it is UNDISPUTED that there has been no attempt at exhaustion.<sup>17</sup> Neither are Plaintiffs required to pursue remedies when such remedies are so inadequate as to bring them within the futility doctrine.<sup>18</sup>

31. Courts need not bow to the primary jurisdiction of an agency, even if it were mandated which it is not, where resort would be unavailing in light of that agency's manifest opposition and because it has already evinced its special

and, in this case, venal incompetence in a manner hostile to Plaintiffs.

32. In those cases where exhaustion is required, the premise underlying the Doctrine of Exhaustion of Administrative Remedy is that the remedy is available to Plaintiffs on their own initiative, that it is available rapidly, and that it will protect Plaintiffs' claims of right.

33. Plaintiffs have clearly alleged sufficient facts with sufficient particularity to expose the inadequacy and, a fortiori, the futility of resorting to the DSS remedy of a "Fair Hearing" or an administrative one.

34. There is no set of facts in this case by which DSS Defendants would possibly show that an efficacious and adequate remedy exists which Plaintiffs are obliged to exhaust. In light of the corollary fact that there is no pending state proceeding worth the paper it is printed on, the Court should deny this part of Defendants' Motion.

Part Five: Concerning Defendants' contention that Plaintiffs have failed to state a claim under RICO.

35. The issue of subject matter jurisdiction under the federal question statute is separate and distinct from the issue of whether Plaintiffs have stated a claim but the fact that the Court must construe all material allegations in the Complaint in favor of Plaintiffs applies to both.

Plaintiffs have alleged that DSS Defendants ratified and promoted a RICO conspiracy orchestrated by School Defendants to violate 18 U.S.C. §§ 1962(a), (b), & (c), and by doing so have sufficiently alleged a claim against DSS Defendants for which relief may be granted.

36. Although Plaintiffs' Complaint comprehensively sets out in the body and in the appendices, the "time, place, and content" of the DSS Defendants' alleged Mail and Wire Fraud, they have done more. Every predicate act that DSS Defendants allegedly committed, viz., Conspiracy, Obstruction of Justice, Extortion, Impeding a Criminal Investigation and Wire and Mail Fraud, and every overt act, viz., Violations of Plaintiffs' Constitutional Rights, has been correctly and comprehensively enumerated and set forth in the Complaint.

37. Rule 9(b) cannot set the boundaries of a Court's jurisdiction and in this case it is not called upon to do so. Neither predicate nor overt act, no matter how inartfully pleaded, is required - either to allege or prove participation in a RICO conspiracy. One can be a conspirator by agreeing to only facilitate some of the acts leading to the substantive offense, viz., violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 1962(a), (b) or (c). It is settled law that a conspiracy may exist and be punished whether or not the substantive offense ensues, for this particular RICO conspiracy, like every other one, is a distinct evil, dangerous to the public and so punishable in itself.<sup>19</sup>

This Motion to Dismiss brought by DSS Defendants whose alleged conduct would pass muster under a feudal regime, is insufficient as a matter of law, fails to make a bona fide objection under Rule 12(b)(1) or Rule 12(b)(6) and should be denied. Plaintiffs' case has unique Constitutional dimensions and it is in the public interest that a state sponsored humbug nomenclatura be reigned in by a jury of its peers. Therefore Plaintiffs' Complaint should be allowed to advance to trial.



REQUEST FOR ORAL ARGUMENT

If oral argument will assist the Court, Plaintiffs are prepared to give it.

Respectfully submitted

\_\_\_\_\_  
Peter Tinkham, Pro se

\_\_\_\_\_  
Juliet Alexander, Pro se

October 30, 2005

P.O.Box 1075

Easton, MA 02334

(207) 364-3964

I hereby certify that a true copy of the above document was served upon the attorneys of record for the other parties by mail on ~~October 31~~, 2005.

NOV. 4th

## CASES REFERENCED IN MOTION

FOOTNOTE		CASE
1	¶9	Barnett v. Okeechobee Hospital C.A.11th 2002, 283 F.3d. 1232, 1237-8
2	¶10	Coalition for the Environment v. Volpe 504 F.2d. 156 (8th Cir. 1974)
3	¶11	Morrison v. Amway Corp. 323 F.3d 920, 924-7. (11th Cir. 2003)
4	¶13	Lujan v. Defenders of Wildlife 504 U.S. 555, 112 S. Ct. 2130 119 L.Ed 2d 351 (1992)
5	¶14	Hartigan v. Federal Home Loan 746 F.2d 1300 (7th Cir. 1984)
6	¶15	Schiffels v. Kemper Financial Ser. Inc. 978 F.2d 344 (7th Cir. 1992)
7	¶16	Falwell v. City of Lynchburg, Va. D.C.Va. 2002, 198 F.Supp.2d 265
8	¶16	Friends of the Earth v. Laidlaw 528 U.S. 167, 180-181 120 S.Ct 693 (2000) 145 L.Ed 2d 610
9	¶17	Bell v. Hood 327 U.S. 678, 682-685, 66 S.Ct.773 90 L.Ed 939 (1946)
		Steel Co. v. Citizens for a Better Environment 523 U.S. 83, 118 S. Ct. 1003, 140 L.Ed 210 (1998)
10	¶17	Moseke v. Miller and Smith, Inc. D.C.Va 2002, 202 F. Supp. 2d 492
11	¶20	Cole v. Cole 633 F.2d 1083 (4th Cir. 1980)
12	¶20	Kirby v. Mellewger 830 F.2d 176 (11th Cir. 1987)
12a	¶21	Drewes v. Ilnicki 863 F.2d 469 (6th Cir. 1988)
13	¶28	Haag v. Cuyahoga County 619 F. Supp. 262, N.D. Ohio 1985 Affirmed 798 F.2d 1414 (6th Cir. 1986)
14	¶28	Allee v. Medrano 416 U.S. 802, 94 S.Ct. 2191 40 L.Ed. 2d 566 (1974)

CASES REFERENCED IN MOTION PAGE 2

FOOTNOTE		CASE
16	¶29	Patsy v. Board of Regents 457 U.S. 496, 102 S.Ct. 2557 73 L.Ed. 2d 172 (1982)  McGarry V. Curvin 406 F. Supp. 57 (D.RI 1976)
17	¶30	Moyer V. Showboat Casinos 56 F. Supp. 2d 498 (D. NJ 1999).
18	¶30	Shalala v. Illinois Council 529 U.S., 120 S.Ct. 1084 146 L.Ed 2d 1 (2000)
19	¶37	Salinas v. United States 118 S. Ct. 469 (1997)

CORRECTION TO CASES REFERENCED LIST

FOOTNOTE	CASE
15	Steffel v. Thompson 415 U.S. 452, 94 S. Ct. 1209 39 L.Ed. 2d 505 (1974)

ADDENDUM TO CASES REFERENCED LIST

"When a civil rights action is brought and jurisdiction exists under 28 U.S.C. §1343, prior resort to State Courts, even where a State remedy may be available, is not required since Federal remedies for violations of civil rights are not supplementary to any remedy which may exist under State law."

Damico v. California  
389 U.S. 416, 88 S. Ct. 526  
19 L. Ed. 2d 647 (1967)

"The fact that a party's claim might be resolved under the Due Process clause of a state constitution or even under an (administrative process) is not a proper ground for abstention."

Wisconsin v. Constantineau  
400 U.S. 433, 915 S. Ct. 507  
27 L.Ed 2d 515 (1971)

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

*Redacted  
Copy 11/7/05*

PETER TINKHAM

V.

CIVIL ACTION NO: 05-10470MLW

DOREEN KELLY

AFFIDAVIT OF JULIET ALEXANDER

I, Juliet Alexander, state under oath as follows:

1. I am a plaintiff in the above-entitled action.
2. In March 2002, I was accused of child abuse and neglect and listed as a perpetrator in DSS correspondence and in their files. The shame, embarrassment, and outrage at being falsely accused was unendurable except that we endured it.
3. My husband, who was also accused and cloaked with the same epithet of 'alleged perpetrator', and I resolved to cleanse ourselves of the filth that had blackened our reputations and made us the subject of raised eyebrows among family members and co-workers, to say nothing of the school personnel who were responsible for concocting the charges in the first place.
4. We requested the DSS file and when we discovered the depths of calumny and slander, outright lies and defamation that were contained in the original accusations, we were outraged and terrified at the same time. Any person malicious enough to invent such filth and anyone who would believe such filth could not be trusted. We did not know what they would do next. This was particularly unnerving when the collaboration between DSS Defendants and School Defendants became obvious upon reading the DSS file.
5. We requested a Fair Hearing immediately, convinced that at least we would have a forum to demonstrate our innocence. The emotional distress we felt increased



exponentially when we learned that we would not be getting a hearing. When we discovered the existence of a conciliatory meeting with the area DSS director, we immediately asked our attorney to request the meeting, feeling that a request from an attorney would not be so lightly disregarded. When we learned to our extreme dismay that Defendant Pontes did not even have the courtesy to acknowledge this request, we felt outraged and helpless at the same time.

6. We began to fear what these government employees were up to. We were aware of the reputation that DSS had as a 'child-snatching' agency and were truly alarmed to receive from a third party a communication written by Defendant Kelly and copied to Defendant Thomas that was addressed to "Guardian of Samantha Tinkham" and concerned itself with informing that "guardian" about Samantha's educational status. We were never sent that letter by Kelly.

7. I became so fearful and anxious that I sought psychiatric assistance. I also felt that I might lose control if I ever came into the presence of any of the Defendants, particularly the ones who lived in my town. When the medical advice proved unhelpful and the sense of extreme emotional distress did not abate but rather increased with each passing day, I began to pack up my household.

8. When I received Defendant Cohen's letter in September '02 with its gratuitous reference to a 'conciliation meeting that had not yet been scheduled and then her offer to hear for herself how we felt about the treatment DSS had given us, I finished packing and moved my family and my fear and my constitutional rights out of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Signed under the penalties of perjury this 30th day of October, 2005

  
Juliet Alexander

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
MASSACHUSETTS DIVISION

PETER TINKHAM

V.

Civil Action No: 05-10470MLW

KELLY

AFFIDAVIT OF PETER TINKHAM

I, Peter Tinkham, state under oath as follows:

1. I am a plaintiff in the above captioned action.
2. I first learned that the charges against me were being "supported" by DSS in a phonecall from Defendant Senges on March 8, 2002.
3. I immediately sent a letter, dated March 9, 2002, to Defendant Pontes requesting the complete DSS record be sent to me forthwith. I intended to prepare our defense against these preposterous charges immediately.
4. I then sent a letter dated March 14, 2002, requesting a Fair Hearing from the Fair Hearing Division at DSS.
5. On or about March 20, 2002, I received a letter from Defendant Keezell postponing a date for a Fair Hearing indefinitely.
6. As soon as I discovered that a "conciliation" meeting with the DSS area Director was provided for in the DSS policy and procedure, I directed my attorney to request such a hearing from Defendant Pontes forthwith.
7. The same day he received my request, my attorney mailed a letter to Defendant Pontes requesting a "conciliatory" meeting with him. This letter was sent July 12, 2002
8. Defendant Pontes, to this day, has never acknowledged this letter from my attorney and he has never communicated with me in any manner whatsoever.

9. In September 2002, I received a letter from DSS social worker, Defendant Cohen, who was assigned to our "case". In this letter, Defendant Cohen referred to a conciliation meeting with Defendant Pontes "that has not yet been scheduled". Defendant Cohen then offered to hear any complaints we might have about the way we were treated by DSS at a meeting at our home which she was interested in scheduling.

10. The next communication I received from DSS was a letter from Defendant Cohen telling me in March 2003 that our "case" had been closed without our ever learning why it had been opened.

11. The next communication with DSS in this matter was a letter from Defendant Keezell dated September 29, 2004, but received by us after a rerouting to Florida and then to Maine on December 14, 2004. Defendant Keezell suggested in his letter that if we were still interested in a Fair Hearing one might be scheduled if we replied by October 8, 2004, otherwise it would be dismissed, 940 days after I requested it.

12. The very next communication from anyone on the subject of a Fair Hearing was a letter from Stephen Dick, AAG, informing me that a Fair Hearing might be scheduled sometime for us. This letter was dated July 12, 2005, but postmarked August 4, 2005 and received by me on August 11, 2005.

13. I replied to this letter with a letter to Mr. Dick informing him that if he would identify who he was representing in the civil case, if anyone, I would be pleased to correspond with him. I sent this letter on August 17, 2005.

14. I never received an answer from Mr. Dick to my letter.

15. The next communication from Attorney Dick, aside from a letter requesting a telephone call, and his notice to the Court concerning the transfer of this case to a

magistrate judge, was his letter of October 6, 2005 enclosing his Motion to Dismiss (This was my second clue that Mr. Dick was representing anyone or anything in this case.) in which he reiterated his offer of a Fair Hearing. I declined to respond concerning the Fair Hearing offer because I intended to address it in my Motion to the Court. I did not think that Attorney Dick's noticeable lack of courtesy warranted my taking the time from composing my Motion to write him a letter.

16. My last communication from Mr. Dick was a letter dated October 17, 2005 and actually mailed on October 17th, telling me that a Fair Hearing was going to be scheduled for for us whether we consented to it or not.

17. On October 18, 2005, my wife answered Mr. Dick's letter at my request, phoning him to alert him that it was on the way in order to avoid any suggestion that we were unresponsive . . . .

18. Lastly, on October 19, 2005, I received a notice from DSS scheduling a "Fair Hearing" for December 22, 2005, ~~1564~~ days after I requested it.

1365

Signed under the penalty of perjury this 30th day of October, 2005.



Peter Tinkham,



ATTACHMENTS TO AFFIDAVIT OF PETER TINKHAM

- ¶3 Letter dated March 9, 2002 / Plaintiff to Defendant Pontes
- ¶4 Letter dated March 14, 2002 / Plaintiff to Defendant Keezell
- ¶5 Letter dated March 19, 2002 / Defendant Keezell to Plaintiff
- ¶7 Letter dated July 12, 2002 / Atty Moniz to Defendant Pontes
- ¶8 Letter dated Sept. 9, 2002 / Defendant Cohen to Plaintiff
- ¶11 Letter dated Sept. 29, 2004 / Defendant Keezell to Plaintiff
- ¶12 Letter dated July 12, 2005, Postmarked August 4, 2005,  
/ Atty Dick to Plaintiff
- ¶13. Letter dated August <sup>17</sup>~~18~~, 2005 / Plaintiff to Atty Dick
- ¶16. Letter dated October 18, 2005 / Plaintiff to Atty Dick.

March 9, 2002

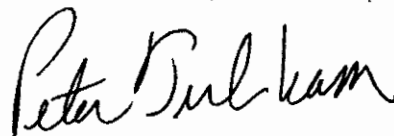
Ken Pontes, Area Director  
30 Mystic Street  
Arlington, MA 02474

Dear Mr Pontes,

Please send me a copy of the 51A and 51B charges filed against us by the Sharon School Department and all investigative notes by Ms. Singes and supporting documentation. We desire that all the requested material be forwarded to us as soon as possible.

I enclose the only written documentation we have received in this case. I would appreciate very much your kind attention to this matter and I remain

Cordially yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Peter Tinkham".

Peter Tinkham  
132 Massapoag Avenue  
Sharon, MA 02067

cc Alan Levine, Esq.

Fair Hearing Office  
Massachusetts Department of Social Services  
24 Farnsworth Street  
Boston, MA 02210

March 14, 2002

Dear Sir,

On March 8, 2002, Ms. Singes informed me via the telephone that a complaint of 'neglect', viz. failure to provide 'therapy' for our daughter was being 'supported' by her agency. We wish to request a Fair Hearing on this matter and this letter will serve as that request. The information required by the brochure she gave us in order to request such a hearing is as follows:

Name, Address, and Telephone:

Juliet Alexander and Peter Tinkham, parents.  
132 Massapoag Avenue, Sharon, MA 02067  
781-784-5521

Date Decision was Made:

March 8, 2002

Name of Child:

Samantha Louise Tinkham

Name And Address Of Office Where Decision Was Made:

Arlington Area Office  
30 Mystic Street, Arlington, MA 02474  
781-641-8500

Decision Desired To Be Appealed:

See Above.

A Copy Of The Notice Sent By Department:

Enclosed please find the ONLY written material sent by Ms. Singes.

I remain

cc Alan Levine, Esq.

Cordially,

*Peter Tinkham*

Executive Office of Health and Human Services  
Department of Social Services  
Fair Hearing Unit  
24 Farnsworth Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02210  
Phone: (617) 748-2000 Fax: (617) 261-7428



JANE SWIFT, Governor  
ROBERT P. GITTENS, Secretary  
LEWIS H. SPENCE, Commissioner

03/19/2002

RE: Hearing # 20020407

Peter Tickham/Alexander, Juliet  
132 Massapoag Ave.  
Sharon, MA 02067

Dear M. Tickham/Alexander, Juliet

This letter is to acknowledge receipt of your timely request for a fair hearing.

As you may be aware, the fiscal crisis in Massachusetts has resulted in an early retirement offer to eligible state workers and a freeze in our ability fill vacancies. We are now in the process of reconfiguring our hearing schedule due to loss of staff. As a result, we are unable to give you a date, time, and location of your hearing at this time. We expect to be able to do so within the near future.

I regret not being able to be more definitive at this time and appreciate your patience and cooperation.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Barney Keezell  
Director, Fair Hearing Unit



**Law Offices Of Lawrence Moniz**

41 Harrison Street ♦ Taunton, MA 02780  
Phone (508) 823-3612 ♦ Fax (508) 824-2820

July 12, 2002

Mr. Kenneth F. Pontes, Area Director  
Mass. Department of Social Services  
Arlington Area Office  
30 Mystic Street  
Arlington, MA 02474

**Re: Samantha Tinkham**

Dear Mr. Pontes:

Please know that I represent Peter Tinkham and Juliet Alexander, the parents of the child, Samantha Tinkham, for whom a 51A decision was supported pursuant to M.G.L. c. 119, §51B on or about March 8, 2002. The social worker Stephanie Thomas was assigned to do the assessment subsequent to that supported 51B investigation and she has now forwarded, to my clients and myself, a proposed Service Plan for our consideration.

My clients have requested a fair hearing relative to the decision to support the 51A allegation, but on March 19, 2002, Mr. Barney Keezell, Director of the Fair Hearing Unit, indicated that they were not able to schedule a fair hearing based upon budgetary restrictions.

On that basis, this letter is to request that a meeting be arranged with you, Ms. Thomas if you so desire, and anyone else that you feel is necessary as well as both of my clients and their counsel. The purpose of this meeting would be in what as been described as a "conciliatory meeting" and we would seek to address issues involving the validity of the decision to support the allegations against my clients and the need for further DSS involvement. My clients have obtained indications from appropriate clinicians that this child needs to continue to be home tutored and that is the plan for the fall and the clinician's "order" to the effect that the child should be home tutored are being communicated to the Sharon School Department in the hopes that they will abide by their obligations under special education law and Massachusetts General Laws generally to provide the level of education to which this child is entitled in her home setting.

Would you please contact this office upon receipt of this letter to discuss the feasibility and timing of such a conciliatory meeting.

Mr. Kenneth F. Pontes, Area Director -2-

July 12, 2002

In addition, please let this letter serve as my request pursuant to Chapter 110 of the Code of Massachusetts Regulations, Section 12.01 et. seq., for a copy of the entire DSS case file relating to Samantha Tinkham. I certify, consistent with said regulations, that I shall not disclose the contents thereof to anyone not a party to this action or his or her counsel without further authorization of DSS or a court of competent jurisdiction. I enclose an Authorization signed by both of my clients allowing for the release of this information.

I look forward to the receipt of these records and to speaking to you relative to the scheduling of the conciliatory meeting.

Very truly yours,

---

LAWRENCE MONIZ

LM/sjt  
Enclosure

cc: Mr. Peter Tinkham  
Ms. Juliet Alexander  
Ms. Stephanie Thomas

Tinkham, Peter 0712 letter to pontes.hd



**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**Executive Office of Health and Human Services**  
**Department of Social Services**

**Arlington Area Office**

30 Mystic Street, Arlington, Massachusetts 02474  
Phone: (781) 641-8500 ♦ Fax: (781) 646-5172

JANE SWIFT  
Governor

♦  
ROBERT P. GITTENS  
Secretary

♦  
LEWIS H. SPENCE  
Commissioner

♦  
KEN PONTES  
Area Director

9/9/02

Dear Mrs. Alexander and Mr. Tinkham,

I am writing you this letter to introduce myself as the ongoing social worker that has been assigned to work with your family. I am aware that you have requested a meeting with the area director, Keneth Pontes, and to date, that has not yet been scheduled. In the interim, I would like to have the opportunity to meet with your family to review the service plan that was mailed to you by the previous assessment worker, and to discuss any concerns you may have regarding the department's involvement at this time. Please contact me at your earliest convenience to schedule a home visit. My phone number is 781-641-8530. I look forward to speaking with you.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Erica Cohen".

Erica Cohen

Ongoing social worker



MITT ROMNEY  
Governor

KERRY HEALEY  
Lieutenant Governor

RONALD PRESTON  
Secretary

LEWIS H. SPENCE  
Commissioner

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Health and Human Services  
Department of Social Services  
24 Farnsworth Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02210  
Tel (617) 748-2000 \* Fax (617) 261-7428

September 29, 2004

Mr. Peter Tickham  
Ms. Juliet Alexander  
132 Massapoag Ave.  
Sharon, MA 02067

Re: Fair Hearing # 20020407

Dear Mr. Tickham/Ms. Alexander:

As you may remember, we have not been able to schedule the Fair Hearing you requested on 3/14/2002 because of staffing shortages due to budget cuts. We are currently in the process of possibly scheduling your appeal in the near future.

Please let our office know if you are still interested in the appeal by October 8, 2004 by calling 617-748-2030 and leave a message with your name and **hearing number**. If we do not hear from you by this date, we will **dismiss** your appeal, assuming you are no longer interested in pursuing this matter.

Thank you for your patience in this matter.

Sincerely,

  
Barney Keezell, Director  
Fair Hearing Unit



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

ONE ASHBURTON PLACE  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02108-1598

THOMAS F. REILLY  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

(617) 727-2200  
[www.ago.state.ma.us](http://www.ago.state.ma.us)

July 12, 2005

Mr. Peter Tinkham  
Ms. Juliet Alexander  
PO Box 466  
Hopkinton MA 01748-9998

**Re: Tinkham, pro se, et al v. Kelly, et al.**  
**USDC 05-10470-MLW**

Dear Mr. Tinkham and Ms. Alexander:

The Massachusetts Department of Social Services will hear your appeal. Should you desire to exercise that right, the hearing would probably occur sometime between November, 2005 and January, 2006. In the event you are aggrieved by that decision, judicial review will of course be available to you, also as of right, under G.L. c. 30A, §14. Please contact me if you wish to go forward with your DSS appeal.

On another matter, kindly be advised that the Court will not consider motions with which defense counsel has not been served a copy.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen Dick".

Stephen Dick, AAG

x3324

[stephen.dick@ago.state.ma.us](mailto:stephen.dick@ago.state.ma.us)

cc: Barney Keezell



August 17, 2005

Stephen Dick, AAG  
One Ashburton Place  
Boston, Massachusetts  
02108-1598

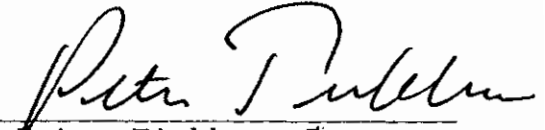
RE: Tinkham v. Kelly Civil Action No: 05-10470MLW

Dear Mr. Dick,

I am in receipt of your July 12, 2005 letter, that is to say, your letter dated July 12, 2005 but mailed on August 4, 2005 and received by me on August 11, 2005. In this letter you kindly advise that the Court will not hear motions that are not sent also to defense counsel. I assume this is your round-about way of indicating that you are defending someone or something in the above-captioned matter. If this assumption is correct, please inform me and I will be pleased to send you all of the motions that have been sent to the Court and to the only other counsel of whom I had knowledge, John Davis, Esq..

I remain

Cordially yours,

  
Peter Tinkham, Pro se  
P.O. Box 466  
Hopkinton, MA 01748-9998

PS. I note that Attorney Davis has not, to my knowledge, sent you his very interesting Motion To Dismiss. Would you like me to send you a copy?

October 18, 2005

Re: Civil Action #05-10470 MLW

Dear Mr. Dick,

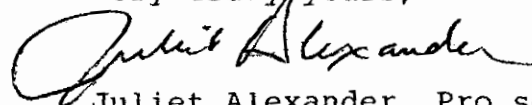
I have received your letter of the 6th instant in which you say that a copy of DSS Defendants' Rule 12 motion and your Rule 7.1 (a)(2) certificate and affidavit are enclosed. This letter is to inform you that the Rule 7 certificate and affidavit were NOT enclosed, doubtless through inadvertence. Would you kindly see to it that I receive a copy of same at your very earliest convenience?

Additionally, please be advised that it has been Plaintiffs' policy, particularly since my conversation with you in early July, to communicate with opposing counsel in writing only, unless it concerns a procedural matter, for instance, a request to enlarge time, that could be expedited with a simple phone-call.

I would also like to take this opportunity to respectfully remind you that Rule 12(a) requires all Defendants to responsively plead or otherwise defend within 20 days of service of summons. You most certainly do not need to be reminded that the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, far from being only advisory or optional, have the full force and effect of federal statutes.

I remain, my dear Sir

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Juliet Alexander".

Juliet Alexander, Pro se

P.S. Regarding your phone messages and letters on the subject of a so-called Fair Hearing, which is the closest thing to an oxymoron since Due Process, please note that our motion in opposition to DSS Defendants' Rule 12 Motion to Dismiss deals with the exhaustion question in detail. Briefly, it can be summarized by saying that no one discerning a faction is obliged to appear before it for judgement. Or, as the blind poet Homer once said: Even the fool is wise after the event. DSS Defendants' interference in Plaintiffs' lives was flagrant, intentional and malicious and their present scramble to erect the edifice of a pending state proceeding is neither edifying nor credible. Or necessary. The case law on this subject is unambiguous.

You must keep in mind, my dear sir, that post hoc ergo propter hoc is not always sound reasoning, but ante hoc ergo non propter hoc is unanswerable.

Again, I remain,

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'JA' with a stylized flourish.